

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 24410

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI 19
NOV 75 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 0274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJECT: ASIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETS IN CHIANG MAI

1. SUMMARY--DELEGATES TO THE ASIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
(ASA) MEETING AT CHIANG MAI ARE GATHERING IN AN
ATMOSPHERE OF SECRECY UNDER HEAVY SELF-IMPOSED SECURITY.
STUDENTS ARE TAKING STRONG ATNI-IMPERIALIST STANCE AND
CONDEMNING EXPLOITATION OF MASSES IN THEIR FINEST "THIRD
WORLD" MANNER. ALTHOUGH WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS HAS
BEEN HOLDING SESSIONS, MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS ARE
PRESENTLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SIGHTSEEING AND LOY KRA-
THONG FESTIVITIES, AND THE REAL BUSINESS OF THE CONFER-
ENCE, "THE CURRENT WORLD'S SITUATION," IS SCHEDULED TO
GET UNDERWAY NOV. 20. END SUMMARY.

2. STUDENTS ATTENDING ASIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD FROM NOV. 15-25 HAVE BEGUN GATHERING
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IN CHIANG MAI CONCENTRATING THUS FAR PRIMARILY ON SIGHT-

SEEING AND ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING LOY KRATHONG FESTIVAL. ACTUAL MEETINGS ARE SUPPOSED TO GET UNDERWAY NOV. 20, AND ALL PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED. DURING WEEKEND OF NOV. 15-16 LEAFLETS CALLING STUDENTS COMMUNISTS WERE SCATTERED AT PARKING LOT OF CONFERENCE SITE (PRESIDENT HOTEL) AND THROUGHOUT TOWN; FIRECRACKERS WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPLODED IN FRONT OF HOTEL, AND POLICE PLAINCLOTHESMEN SENT TO PROVIDE SECURITY WERE SUMMARILY REJECTED BY CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS. STUDENTS HAVE SET UP VERY TIGHT SECURITY, AND NO ONE INCLUDING HOTEL STAFF IS ALLOWED NEAR CONFERENCE ROOM (STUDENTS THEMSELVES ARE PROVIDING ROOM SERVICE). POLICE HAVE STATIONED UNIFORMED GUARDS IN FRONT OF HOTEL, BUT THAT'S AS CLOSE AS STUDENTS WILL ALLOW THEM, AND POLICE ARE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT. STUDENTS WHO DROVE UP FROM BANGKOK HAVE ALSO REMOVED CAR LICENSE PLATES IN ORDER THAT THEY NOT BE TRACED.

3. COMMUNIST COUNTRIES INVITED (LAOS, CAMBODIA, VIETNAM, PRC) HAVE DECLINED PARTICIPATION EXCEPT FOR NORTH KOREA WHICH HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM. COUNTRIES WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ARRIVED THUS FAR ARE JAPAN, INDIA, NEPAL, MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES, LEBANON, SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND HONG KONG. ARAB STATES OF EGYPT AND SYRIA WERE ALSO INVITED, BUT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED. ISRAEL, WHICH PARTICIPATED IN PAST, IS NOT SENDING DELEGATION. DUAL ISRAELI/AMERICAN NATIONAL WHO STUDIES IN LONDON STOPPED BY CONSULATE NOV. 17 SAYING ORGANIZATION WHICH SHE REPRESENTING, WORLD UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS (WUJS), WAS NOT BEING ALLOWED IN CONFERENCE. WUJS HAD SENT OBSERVER TO PAST TWO ASA MEETINGS, AND SHE WAS QUITE DISAPPOINTED AFTER HAVING PREPARED AND SHIPPED MATERIALS ON ISSUE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO BE USED AT CONFERENCE. SHE FOUND GROUP EXTREMELY HOSTILE AND STATED THAT EVEN THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND PARTICIPANTS REFUSED TO SPEAK TO HER. ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON OFFICE, SHE APPEALED TO CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND SAID SHE WAS MET WITH A BARRAGE OF "ANTI-ISRAELI, ANTI-IMPERIALIST" RHETORIC.

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4. TONE OF CONFERENCE HAS BEEN ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND ANTI-AMERICAN. OPENING SPEECH FOR WORKSHOP ON "THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE THIRD WORLD," ONE OF THE FEW DOCUMENTS (BEING POUCHED TO POL) WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN, ATTACKS SUPERPOWERS FOR EXPLOITING AND PLUNDERING THE THIRD WORLD AND PRAISES "THE HISTORIC VICTORIES OF THE HEROIC INDOCHINESE PEOPLES." ACCORDING TO PRESS

REPORT IN THAI NEWS REPEAT THAI NEWS, AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD NO. 17 SPOKESMAN FOR WOMEN'S SEMINAR WORANAN PHONBUT SAID THAT FFT VICE PRES SITHON YOTKHAMKA HAD ADDRESSED SEMINAR FOR THREE HOURS EXPLAINING THAT RTG HAS NO SYMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE AND IS NOT ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. SHE NOTED THAT LADYLIKE ATTEMPTS TO HELP THE PEOPLE BY STAYING WITHIN THE LAW WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL,,AND ONLY WAY TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE IN ASSISTING MASSES WAS TO FIGHT FOR THEM. WORKSHOP ON WOMEN'S ROLE SUPPOSEDLY ENDS NOV. 20 WHEN PARTICIPANTS WILL TAKE UP "CURRENT WORLD'S SITUATION."

5. COMMENT: NSCT INVITED ASA MEETING TO THAILAND IN ORDER TO GAIN STATURE IN THAILAND BY PROVING THEY ARE AN INTERNATIONALLY RECONGIZED STUDENT GROUP. AT SAME TIME THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS ASIAN STUDENT COLLEAGUES THAT THEY ARE TRULY PART OF THE THIRD WORLD AND JUST AS ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST AS ANYBODY ELSE. WE CAN EXPECT THAT CONFERENCE WILL PRODUCE A GOOD BIT MORE OF COMMUNIST HISTRIONICS DURING ITS NEXT FEW DAYS OF MEETINGS AND WILL REPORT WHATEVER WE ARE ABLE TO LEARN. HARBIN UNQUOTE.
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